

Lexington, Feb. 8. 1843.

Hon Horace Mann. -

My Dear Sir.

I am sorry to have caused you so much anxiety, and hasten to relieve you as far as I may.

As to the lecture, from the delivery of which you apprehend so much evil, I made up my mind several days ago, that I could not take time enough to prepare such a one, as I should be willing to deliver in the proposed course, without neglecting my immediate, paramount duties here; and therefore determined to withdraw my name from the list of lecturers. Accordingly I wrote to my anti slavery friends to this effect:

It is my wish still to be known of all men as an abolitionist. Nothing seems to me so impious, fool-hardy, fanatical, as the ~~the~~ attempt to perpetuate slavery in our country; although I see so many of the wise and prudent enlisted on that behalf. It is my intention to do, what I may, without neglecting or slighting my duties to the Normal School, to aid the anti slavery cause. I declared this intention to you most explicitly, in our first conversation at Bridgewater. I told you that, whenever I could without a dereliction of duty, I should attend anti slavery meetings; that I should retain my office in the Mass^{ts} and Amer-

ican Anti Slavery Societies, - and contribute to their funds all the more, because I should not be able to serve them much otherwise, as I have been wont to do. I assured you, if I took charge of this institution, that the care of it should be my first object of attention, and that to its interests I would devote the best powers of my mind. And I predicted that I should have but little time, or thought to spare to other subjects however important. I have thus far done as I promised; and if I continue ^{here}, I shall be as devoted as I have been.

My going to Waltham, and carrying with me a number of my pupils, was no departure from the course I prescribed to myself at first, nor did it involve any neglect of duty. My speech there took up no more of my time than was occupied in the utterance of it. It was not a written, nor a premeditated address, but wholly extempore. The meeting was held on a Saturday evening. I could therefore go without leaving any thing undone. Many of my pupils are abolitionists. They were so when they came here, or were made so by Father Pierce. They expressed a desire to attend the meeting, to which they, with the rest of the people, were invited by placards sent over from Waltham and scattered through our village. It was very fine sleighing, which made them the more desirous to go. The getting ready took but a little time. We went, and enjoyed the meeting.

highly, excepting one injudicious speech. - If the young
lady, to whom you referred in a former letter, re-
ally was prevented from joining our school, by the
reason you have ~~prevented~~ ^{assigned}, she must be, I think,
in mind and heart very inferior to many, who are
now in it. Nor was my consenting to be one of the
lecturers of the proposed course any breach of my
important trust. I consented, supposing my turn
would come in my next vacation, and that
I should be left to take a subject, upon which I
have a carefully prepared address. But when
I saw the advertisement of the course, I found
that another (Wendell Phillips) had ta-
ken my subject, and that another ^{subject} had
been assigned to me, upon which I feel
little inclined to write, and unable to do so
well, without a careful revision of my former
opinions, and much study of recent documents.
This determined me to withdraw from the course.

I have gone thus at length into an account
of myself, because I wish to satisfy you, if I may,
that I have not been unmindful of my charge,
and that I shall not be.

And now, my friend, allow me say to you,
that I think your fear of the effect of my ab-
olitionism upon the prosperity of the Normal School,
is undue. This heresy is rapidly becoming orthodoxy
in our Commonwealth. ^{It is embraced by} A much larger portion,
than you are aware of, of that class of the people
which furnishes most of our school teachers. I

have myself been surprised to find so large a
part of my pupils zealous in the anti slavery cause.
But if you and the other supporters of the School
are to be made unhappy, and filled with alarm,
whenever I do or say any thing that shows how
deeply I am interested in the redemption of
our country from the curse of Slavery - it will

Several of our young ladies are very anxious
to study Latin. They say they know of none
at this station, which can be had only by those
who understand that language. We have not
time or place in school hours for this, nor money
for any other branch. I present what say you?

Sam. J. May
July 8. 43

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Hon Horace Mann.
104 Bumstead Place.

Boston.

certainly be better for me quietly to with-
draw, on the plea of my incompetency, and
leave the institution in better hands.

Yours very truly
Samuel J. May

I am happy to inform you that the Normal School
is full - and that there are thirty pupils in
the Model School, which is doing finely. - Our new
Steward is better than Mrs Hyde every way.